

**Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal**

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613  
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

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**Project Title:** Treehouse California Almonds Expansion (PSP 23-064)

Lead Agency: Tulare County Resource Management Agency Contact: Gary Mills, Chief Environmental Planner  
Mailing Address: 5961 S. Mooney Blvd. Phone: 559-624-7121  
City: Visalia Zip: 93277-9394 County: Tulare County

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**Project Location:** County: Tulare City/Nearest Community: Earlimart

Cross Streets: SE of Ave 72 & Rd 60 (northern site), NW of Ave 64 & Rd 160 (southern site) Zip Code: 93219

Assessor's Parcel No: 318-290-005 & -006 and 319-060-019, -022, & -037 Total Acres: ±61.86

Latitude/Longitude: 35 ° 54' 52.0" N / 119 ° 12' 51.4" W Section: 19 & 24 Township: 23S Range: 25 & 26E Base: MDBM

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy: \_\_\_\_\_ Waterways: Deer Creek Canal

Airports: \_\_\_\_\_ Railways: \_\_\_\_\_ Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Document Type:**

CEQA:  NOP  Draft EIR NEPA:  NOI Other:  Joint Document  
 Early Cons  Supplement/Subsequent EIR  EA  Final Document  
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) \_\_\_\_\_  Draft EIS  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mit Neg Dec  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  FONSI \_\_\_\_\_

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**Local Action Type:**

General Plan Update  Specific Plan  Rezone  Annexation  
 General Plan Amendment  Master Plan  Pre-zone  Redevelopment  
 General Plan Element  Planned Unit Dev.  Use Permit  Coastal Permit  
 Community Plan  Site Plan  Land Division (Sub.)  Other Special Use Permit

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**Development Type:**

Residential: Units \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_  
 Office: Sq. ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commercial: Sq. ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_  
 Industrial: Sq. ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_  
 Educational: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recreational: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water Facilities: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MGD \_\_\_\_\_  
 Transportation: Type \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mining: Mineral \_\_\_\_\_  
 Power: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MW \_\_\_\_\_  
 Waste Treatment: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MGD \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hazardous Waste: Type \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other: Agricultural processing plant

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**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**

Aesthetic/Visual  Fiscal  Recreation/Parks  Vegetation  
 Agricultural Land  Flood Plain/Flooding  Schools/Universities  Water Quality  
 Air Quality  Forest Land/Fire Hazard  Septic Systems  Water Supply/Groundwater  
 Archaeological/Historical  Geologic/Seismic  Sewer Capacity  Wetland/Riparian  
 Biological Resources  Minerals  Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading  Growth Inducing  
 Coastal Zone  Noise  Solid/Waste  Land Use  
 Drainage/Absorption  Population/Housing Balance  Toxic/Hazardous  Cumulative Effects  
 Economic/Jobs  Public Services/Facilities  Transportation/Traffic/Circulation  Other: Energy  
 Other: Tribal Cultural Res.  Other: Greenhouse Gases  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:** AE-40 (Agricultural Exclusive – 40 acres) & AE-20 (Agricultural Exclusive – 20 acres)/ Rural Valley Lands

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**Project Description:** See Attached

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Treehouse California Almonds sells a full range of roasted and manufactured almonds, including blanched whole, sliced, and diced almonds, almond meal, almond butter, and natural whole almonds. The almonds are hulled and shelled in the Treehouse Almonds plant near Delano in Kern County. This shelled raw product is then trucked to the Earlimart site for processing. The proposed Project is located at 6914 Road 160, Earlimart, CA 93219 and is located on five (5) parcels (APNs 319-060-019, -022, -037, and 318-290-005& -006) totaling approximately 140 acres. The Project is split into two (2) development areas with the existing Earlimart processing facility located within the ±61.2-acre northern project area and the proposed new wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) proposed within the ±77.8-acre southern project area. The proposed Project consists of an expansion of the existing processing plant into four (4) phases, including construction of additional processing, warehouse, and canopy space, solar canopies, and a new WWTF to treat process wastewater for irrigation.

- **Phase 1:** Construction of a 644 sq. ft. metal building addition, a 4,966 sq. ft. canopy, and (2) 5,013 sq. ft. fumigation room buildings with (2) 902 sq. ft. canopies for a total of 5,915 sq. ft. ea. as additions to an existing to an existing warehouse. It will include the relocation of an existing 750 sq. ft. scale house. It will also include the construction of a water treatment facility.

Wastewater will flow via pipeline from the Treehouse plant to the treatment area. This water will flow over a screen separator. The final separated solids will be collected and mixed with what is separated and collected at the plant. The solids will be hauled off and used for animal feed. The water will then gravity flow into the first of two anaerobic ponds.

The two anaerobic ponds (88' x 88' x 19') will be operated in series and continuously mixed. Water will then gravity flow into an aeration pond (280' x 87' x 13') where it will be aerated by submerged diffusers pressurized by blowers adjacent to the pond. Water from the aeration pond will be pumped into a clarifier.

The clarifier (24' diameter x 12') will settle the remaining solid particles, returning them to both the anaerobic and aerobic ponds. The clarified water will gravity flow into the storage pond (466' x 280' x 27') for use in crop irrigation. A floating pump in the storage pond will deliver treated water to the irrigation system of the fields.

A Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) was submitted June 5, 2023, to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) outlining the treatment process, pond design, and nutrient management of the crop irrigations. The RWQCB approved the High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) double liner pond design on July 21, 2023, allowing for the construction of the ponds. The issuance of a Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order is awaiting the completion of the Tulare County Use permit.

- **Phase 2:** Construction of a 5,176 sq. ft. canopy, a 6,263 sq. ft. fumigation room building with a 1,127 sq. ft. canopy for a total of 7,390 sq. ft., and a 1,275 sq. ft. fumigation room with a 230 sq. ft. canopy for a total of 1,505 sq. ft. as additions to an existing warehouse.
- **Phase 3:** Construction of a 162,000 sq. ft. warehouse.
- **Phase 4:** Construction of a 4,433 sq. ft. solar panel canopy, a 6,975 sq. ft. solar panel canopy, and a 7,182 sq. ft. solar panel canopy.

The Project would allow the applicant to diversify the packaging of materials on-site and use additional property for wastewater treatment and irrigation of crops. The Project will not increase operational hours. The Project will not increase the volume of raw almond product coming into the facility from Delano, nor will it increase the amount of processed or finished product shipped out of the facility.

The facility currently operates two (2) 10-hour shifts, four (4) to five (5) days a week, depending on the season, with 87 employees working the day shift and 49 employees working the night shift. The proposed Project is anticipated to add an additional eight (8) employees.

**Reviewing Agencies Checklist**

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X." If the document has already been sent to the agency, denote that with an "s."

- Air Resources Board
- Boating & Waterways, Department of
- California Highway Patrol
- Caltrans District # 6
- Caltrans Division of Aeronautics
- Caltrans Planning
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board
- Cochella Valley Mtns. Conservancy
- Coastal Commission
- Colorado River Board
- Conservation, Department of
- Corrections, Department of
- Delta Protection Commission
- Education, Department of
- Energy Commission
- Fish & Wildlife Region # 4
- Food & Agriculture, Department of
- Forestry & Fire Protection, Department of
- General Services, Department of
- Health Care Services, Department of
- Housing & Community Development
- Integrated Waste Management Board
- Native American Heritage Commission
- Other: San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
- Other: Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner
- Other: Tulare County Association of Governments
- Other: Tulare County Farm Bureau
- Other: Tulare County Fire Warden
- Other: Tulare County HHSA – Environmental Health
- Other: Tulare County Local Agency Formation Commission
- Office of Emergency Services
- Office of Historic Preservation
- Office of Public School Construction
- Parks & Recreation, Department of
- Pesticide Regulation, Department of
- Public Health, Department of
- Public Utilities Commission
- Regional WQCB # 5F
- Resources Agency
- S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission
- San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers and Mtns Conservancy
- San Joaquin River Conservancy
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- State Lands Commission
- SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
- SWRCB: Water Quality
- SWRCB: Water Rights
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Toxic Substances Control, Department of
- Water Resources, Department of
- Other: U.S. Forest Service
- Other: U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Other: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Other: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Other: U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command
- Other: Tulare County Resources Conservation District
- Other: Tulare County Office of Emergency Services
- Other: Tulare County Sheriff's Office
- Other: Tulare County U.C. Cooperative Extension
- Other: Tulare County Resource Management (Fire, Flood, PW)

**Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)**

Starting Date: Friday, July 26, 2024

Ending Date: Monday, August 26, 2024

**Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):**

Consulting Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant: Treehouse California Almonds, LLC


Address: 6914 Road 160

City/State/Zip: Earlimart, CA 93219

Phone: 559-757-5020

**Signature of Lead Agency Representative:**   
Gary A. Mills, Chief Environmental Planner

**Date:** 7/24/2024

**Signature of Lead Agency Representative:**   
Reed Schenke, Director/Environmental Assessment Officer

**Date:** 7/24/24